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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/259,000 02/26/99 RUTLEDGE

G 064493.011

EXAMINER

LM02/1222

BAKER & BOTTS
2001 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS TX 75201

PHILIPPE, G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2713

DATE MAILED:

12/22/99

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/259,000

Applicant(s)
Rutledge

Examiner
Gims Philippe

Group Art Unit
2713



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a first office action for application no. 09/259,000 filed on February 26, 1999 in which claims 1-33 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Federau (US Patent no. 4,532,544).

Regarding claims 1-2, 10, 18, and 20, Federau discloses in fig. 1 the same video inspection system comprising a first image sensor operable to acquire an image in a first direction along a first axis (See Federau fig. 1, items 41 and 23, and col. 4, lines 2-13), a second image sensor operable to acquire an image in a second direction essentially perpendicular to the first direction (See Federau col. 4, lines 2-13), and a camera board and processor coupled to the first image sensor and second

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image sensor operable to receive an image from either the first image sensor or the second image sensor and prepare for display (See Federau col. 4, lines 14-25).

As per claims 3-4, 12-13, and 23-24, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the above rejection of claim 1. In addition, Federau further discloses the same pressure sealed camera mounted for use in a bore hole or water wall (See Federau col. 2, lines 2-5).

As per claims 9, 11, 19, 21-22, Federau further discloses the same video inspection system further comprising a rotatable housing operable to rotate around, and to acquire an image as the rotatable housing rotates (See Federau col. 4, lines 46-50).

4. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barbour (US Patent no. 5,652,617).

Regarding claim 33, Barbour discloses the same camera assembly including an upper section having a camera card (See Barbour fig. col. 8, lines 8-11, and col. 10, lines 22-23), a lower section coupled to the upper section and the steeper motor operable to rotate about an axis when the steeper motor is operational (See Barbour col. 9, lines 6-26), an upper part having a high torque DC motor (See Barbour col. 10, lines 22-23), a lower part coupled to the upper part by a pivoting means, the pivoting means driven by the high torque motor and operable to pivot the

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lower part from a down view to a side view (See Barbour col. 9, lines 6-26) ; the lower part further comprising an image sensor coupled to the camera card and operable to acquire an image in a down position and a side position and any position in between, the image sensor further operable to acquire an image as the lower section rotates about an axis (See Barbour col. 9, lines 1-21, and lines 51-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-8, 14-17, 25-28, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Federau in view of Barbour (US Patent no. 5,652,617), and further in view of Berman et al. (US Patent no. 5,528,453).

It is noted that Federau fails to particularly disclose the same system for video inspection comprising a spool for storing a coaxial cable as specified in claims 5-6, 14-15, 25-26, 29, and 31.

Barbour discloses the same system for video inspection comprising a spool for storing the coaxial cable (See Barbour fig. 1, spool 4).

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Therefore, it is considered obvious that one skilled in the art at the time of the invention having Federau and Barbour before him/her would be motivated to include Barbour's spool in Federau's system for video inspection for the same purpose of raising and lowering the video tool which eliminates the need of an extra worker winding and unwinding the cable.

It is also noted that although both Federau and Barbour disclose a monitor to display the image captured by the camera (See Barbour fig. 1, display 12), they fail to particularly teach a carrying case having a removable cover as specified in claims 7, 16, 27, and 30.

Berman et al. discloses the same system for video inspection comprising a carrying case having a removable cover (See Berman et al. fig. 9, and col. 7, lines 36-45).

Therefore, it is considered obvious that one skilled in the art at the time of the invention having Federau, Barbour, and Berman et al. before him/her, would have had no difficulty to modify the system for video inspection of Federau and Barbour by incorporating a carrying case having a removable cover for the same purpose of facilitating easy and quick storage into closets or loading into the trunk of a car for transportation as taught by Berman et al. (See Berman et al. col. 7, lines 37-39).

As per claims 8, 17, 28, and 32 the limitations of these claims have been noted in the above rejection of claims 5 and 25. In addition, Federau further discloses the same cable arm encoder operable to determine the depth of the camera (See Federau col. 4, lines 58-68).

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7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wraight et al. (US Patent no. 5,107,705) teaches video system and method for determining and monitoring the depth of a bottomhole assembly within a wellbore.

Iizuka et al. (US Patent no. 4,779,201) teaches borehole scanner and sonde position locator for spectral analysis of wall.

Foster et al. (US Patent no. Re. 34,265) teaches groundwater azimuth detection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S. Philippe whose telephone number is (703) 305-1107. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelly, can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) - 308-9052 (formal responses) and (703) -308-5399 (for draft responses).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900

Gims S. Philippe



December 15, 1999



RICHARD LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER